The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 5. NO. 20. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1915. WHOLE NO. 228.

NO AMALGAMATION OF MINERS' UNIONS

Indianapolis, Aug. 14.—No amalgamation of the United Mine Workers of America and the Western Federation of Miners is the report signed by committees representing the two organizations, which have been making a study of this question for some time.

The report, signed by both committees, is as follows:

"After having made an exhaustive investigation of the question of amalgamation between the United Mine Workers of America and the Western Federation of Miners, and after giving full consideration to the present constitution of each organization, we are forced to the conclusion that because of the many obstacles that now present themselves, and which will be explained in the reports hereinafter provided for, that any attempt to consummate an amalgamation at this time would be premature.

"While we jointly agree that to effect an amalgamation of the two organizations at this time would be impracticable, in consideration of the views expressed by the representative committees, we hereby decide that each committee present a separate report, stating in detail the result of their findings, and that the same be submitted to each committee for the consideration of their respective organization."

In its supplemental report the committee representing the United Mine Workers say its reasons "for our not agreeing upon a plan for an amalgamation between our organization and the Western Federation of Miners at this time are purely matters of policy governed by present circumstances affecting both organizations."

The committee calls attention to the harmonious relations that have existed between their organization and the Western Federation of Miners, and urges that this continue even though "an official amalgamation has not been consummated." The committee also calls attention to the exchange of cards between the two unions and urges all United Mine Workers now in Butte to deposit their cards with the Western Federation of Miners.

NEW VOTING SYSTEM ILLEGAL.

St. Paul, Minn., Aug. 14.—The state supreme court has declared unconstitutional the system of preferential ballot voting prescribed by the Duluth city charter. Several Minnesota cities that are considering adopting this system will be forced to change their plans because of the court's ruling.

Supreme Court Judge Hallam dissented from the majority opinion.

The Duluth Labor World has this to say of the decision:

"It is not a question or whether the preferential system of voting is a good thing or a question of whether or not a community of 90,000 people shall have its judgment overthrown by the four men after it has solemnly decided by a vote of the only people affected by the preferential ballot that such is the system it want they want.

"We hope the effect of the decision will be to convince a majority of those which such a decision is made possible. Home rule will be a joke so long as 90,000 people in St. Paul can control 90,000 people in Duluth. The people will not be free until they can determine the character of public matters finally for themselves, unvexed by the possibility of judicial review, judicial legislation or absentee court guardianship."

TO PRESENT NEW DEMANDS.

Cleveland, Aug. 14.—The vigorous organizing campaign of garment workers in this city is strengthened along the lines of these workers and the following demands will now be presented to employers:

Minimum wage of $25 a week for cutters who now get from $22 to $24 a week.

Minimum for finishing pressers of $24 a week. They now get from $18 to $18.

Sample makers' minimum wage of $26 a week. They now average $24.

Minimum wage of $18 a week for girls employed in the trade. Some of them now are paid $8 and $9 a week.

A joint committee to adjust prices for work in shops where piecework is done; nine hour holidays; a week's overtime on Saturday; double time for overtime work through the week and an arbitration committee to settle disputes between the workers and their employers.

TO RAISE WHITE WINGS' PAY.

Washington, Aug. 14.—Renewed efforts will be made during the coming session of congress to obtain wage increases for workers employed in the District's cleaning force. Last year the commissioners of the District of Columbia added to their estimates for an increase in the salaries of these employes from $1.50 to $1.75 a day, but the item was not included in the appropriation act.

SECURE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Aug. 14.—Pittsburgh trade unionists have won an important victory in their long fight with the Ohio and Pittsburgh Milk company, which has agreed to place its plant on an eight-hour basis. Every engineer, fireman and helper in the concern is member of their respective unions. Many of these workers were formerly employed twelve hours a day.

LABOR LAW FORCES CHANGE.

Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 14.—The new child labor law, which took effect last month, is forcing several changes in state laws, because of a provision that no girl under 21 years of age may be employed at any occupation where she will be required to stand on her feet continuously.

FIGHTING THE WHITE PLAGUE.

Madison, Wis., Aug. 14.—Both branches of the state legislature have agreed to provide for prevention of tuberculosis to the first year and $125,000 each year thereafter for county tuberculosis sanitoria and $1,000 for each institution admit cases of incipient tuberculosis.

WIRE MEN FINALLY WIN.

Worcester, Mass., Aug. 14.—Persistence by the Electrical Workers' union has finally brought results and the Delta Wire company, working on a nonunion basis since the strike of 1906, has signed an agreement with the union.

WANT SIX-HOUR DAY.

San Francisco, Aug. 14.—The painters' district council has appointed a committee to inaugurate a campaign for a six-hour day for painters during the winter months, when a large number of these workers are unemployed.

GAINS MADE BY MACHINISTS

Washington, August 14.—The past month has been one of the most successful in recent years, is the report just issued by the International Association of Machinists, from its headquarters in this city.

The eight-hour day without wage reductions has been secured in the following plants:

Remington Arms company, Bridgeport, Conn.

The Lumbder Repeating Arms company, with 10 per cent wage increase.

Bliss company, New York city, and the Remington Arms company, Ilion, New York.

Scott Printing Press company, Hall Printing Press company, Vitaphone company, Bosch company, all of Plainfield, N. J.

Bullard Machine Tool company, Bridgeport, Conn.

The Hendee Manufacturing company, Springfield, Mass., grants a 50-hour week with a 10 per cent wage increase.

Cross Tool and Machine company of Plainfield, N. J., with a 25 per cent wage increase.

Machinists of the National Motor company, Plainfield, N. J., with a 20 per cent wage increase. The eight-hour day applies to this concern's Mack Truck company, Allentown, Pa.

The National Acme company, Boston

The Wheeling Can company, Wheeling, W. Va., has signed a union shop agreement which calls for a 25 per cent minimum.

Machinists at the American La France Fire Engine company, Elmira, N. Y., has been settled on a compromise basis.

Under the terms of the agreement all strikers are to return to work at their former positions; nine hours is to constitute a day's work; time and one-half for overtime up to midnight, Sundays that time and double be paid; work on holidays recognized by the union shall be at the rate of one-half. The company agrees to recognize committees. After all men return to work, or have been given an opportunity to return, the wage question is to be taken up with the company by a committee, and in event that no agreement is reached the matter will be submitted to arbitration.

EXPRESS BUSINESS HIT.

Washington, Aug. 14.—The United States treasury department has announced that plans have been perfected by which, after August 16, all government money and securities will be transported by registered mail. The express companies have handled this business for 25 years, and their revenue from that source amounted to approximately $500,000 annually. Despite claims first made by postoffice officials that the new parcel post system was only intended to be a competitor of the express companies, it is now agreed that the business handed to them is limited and the end is not in sight. One company—the United States Express company—already gone out of business. This concern had the contract to transport money for the government.

The charge was 20 cents a thousand dollars from Washington to Philadelphia, and the rates increased as they ranged up to $1 a thousand to San Francisco. In the earlier days of the Wells Fargo company it was paid $1.50 a thousand to carry money to the Pacific Coast. This company has handled $4,000 in three years, of which $245,000 was reimbursable by the national banks.

MINERS MAKING GAINS.

Scranton, Pa., Aug. 14.—The organizing campaign of the United Mine Workers' union in the anthracite district is being strengthened and large crowds everywhere greet President White and his associates to hear of the growth of trade unionism again defended and explained. The recent convention of district No. 7 held in this city, has stimulated interest throughout the anthracite section, before the demands made indicate the possibilities of a 100 per cent organization.

These demands include an eight-hour day for all men and boys in and around the mines; a general increase of 20 per cent; time and one-half for holidays, and double time for Sunday work. The abolition of the contract mining and an increased wage for firemen, carpenters, blacksmiths and other workers other than miners

LAWSON VERDICT APPEALED.

Denver, Aug. 14.—Attorneys for John R. Lawson have filed an appeal with the state supreme court.

The appeal takes the same allegations of error that were made in the application for a new trial, which was denied by Judge Hillyer. Among the charges is included the affidavit of Grover Hall, a member of the jury, who says that he was induced to consent to a verdict of guilty only after measures employed by Frank Gooden, a bailiff.

The supreme court already has before it a petition for a writ of prohibition to bar Judge Granby Hillyer, who sat in the Lawson case, from hearing any of future trials growing out of the miners' strike.

PATTERN MAKERS ADVANCE.

Bridgeport, Conn., Aug. 14.—The Locomobile company has agreed to the flat rate of 47 cents an hour demanded by its striking pattern makers and these workers are again employed with all grievances adjusted. The company agrees that applications for pattern makers shall be made through the union and the latter agrees that no further demands for raise wages shall be attempted until it can be shown that the Bridgeport manufacturers are paying the same rate or a higher rate.

URGE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

San Francisco, Aug. 14.—The franking privilege for labor and permission to post notices in the postoffices were urged as two vital needs for the labor movement by labor bureau efficiency, by Harry Donahue, in charge of the municipal employment bureau, at the conference of federal, state and municipal officials called by Secretary of Labor Wilson.

LOW WAGE WORKERS STRIKE.

Sandusky, Ohio, Aug. 14.—Grave diggers and caretakers at a cemetery in this city struck because they were refused a raise for a proportionate reduction with the installation of the state eight-hour law. Officials declare that the ten-hour-a-day rate paid under the ten-hour system.

FAVOR NATIONAL PENSIONS.

Northampton, Mass. Aug. 14.—A national pension system was indorsed by the convention of the state association of plumbers, steamfitters, gasfitters and helpers, held in this city.

CHURCHES JOIN WITH TRADE UNIONS IN LAWSON PROTEST MEETING

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT CHURCH AND LABOR RALLY

Whereas, The government and courts of southern Colorado have for years been so completely dominated by the coal companies as to create a suspicion of their impartiality in administration and their fairness to coal miners; and

Whereas, The whole course and conduct of the trial of John R. Lawson have been such as to confirm this suspicion; and

Whereas, Mine guards in the employ of the coal companies and members of the state militia have committed many acts of lawlessness and violence; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we denounce the coal companies for their flagrant abuse and violation of the government and courts in various parts of Colorado and demand that the government itself seek to regain public confidence by a fair and impartial administration of the law; and

Resolved, That we demand the removal from the bench of Judge Granby Hillyer and ask for John R. Lawson and all accused miners a fair trial before an impartial court in whom the people may have confidence.

Resolved, That we demand a thorough investigation of the recent lawlessness and violence in southern Colorado and ask that mine guards and militiamen, guilty with miners and their sympathizers who have been guilty of crime, shall be called to account.

Philadelphia, Aug. 14.—The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America joined with organized labor in a Lawson protest meeting in this city last Sunday evening, and passed the resolutions stated above.

The meeting was most significant because of the churchmen's uncompromising opposition to methods employed in the Lawson trial and the Colorado outrages. They stood squarely with the trade union movement on these questions, and further agreed with the organized workers that coal company domination of government and courts in various sections of Colorado, and the operators' lawlessness, must cease.

The speakers included Rev. Samuel Z. Batten and Gifford Pinchot, members of the committee on direction of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America; President Gompers and Secretary Frank Morrison, of the A. F. of L., and General Secretary William Green of the United Mine Workers of America. President Keenan, of the Central Labor Union, acted as chairman, and Rev. Batten presented the resolutions.

The position of the churches affiliated to the federal council was indicated by Rev. Batten, who declared:

"We will fight this case through the courts of Colorado and to the supreme court of the United States if necessary. Hundreds of miners have been killed in the mines of Colorado during the past twenty-five years, but not one of these cases has ever come to trial damages. We of the church don't want a pardon for Lawson, we don't want a writ; we want justice."

President Gompers said: "The great crime for which John R. Lawson was convicted was that he was not a spy and a taker of bribes, but because he was a friend to his fellow workingmen as the north star is to the magnet. This crime against Lawson is a blow struck against our movement. We do not demand not a pardon for the man, but his acquittal. In the shadow of this great Labor Temple, with the sound of the clock in Independence Hall, we pledge ourselves to leave no honorable efforts untried until the great wrong has been righted and the unfortunate victims for the smallest of our people, and the liberation of Lawson from the dungeon which threatens his life's freedom." President Gompers denounced Judge Hillyer as a "partisan and a former attorney and employe of the Rockefeller corporation in Colorado."

Secretary Morrison quoted a letter from L. M. Bowers, chairman executive board of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company to John D. Rockefeller, jr., in which the former explained how editors and ministers were "rounded up" to aid the operators. "This rounding-up process," said Secretary Morrison, "may be a term which will be used in the nationwide demand for more Cossacks." The speaker referred to conditions among West Virginia miners and in the Pennsylvania steel industry and insisted that the white light of publicity was as necessary there as in the West. "Virginia and Michigan, and which is now turned on Colorado, for the 'rounding-up' process of those who oppose the workers is continually striving to stifle the voice of justice, whether heard in Colorado or elsewhere."

Secretary Green of the mine workers' union declared: "The real enemy of the American courts is jeopardized by the unscrupulous action of big corporations which have for their aim the fight at Ludlow, for which Lawson was convicted and pardoned out that, though militiamen and Rockefeller gunmen shot down women and children, the guilty ones escaped."

This meeting is the first of a series of similar meetings that will be held in every city hall, and almost within sight of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and organized labor.

EXPOSE FAKE BENEVOLENCE

Indianapolis, Aug. 14.—So-called "welfare work" is handled in the following vigorous manner by the United Mine Workers' journal:

"Large employers of labor, who, in the language of John D. Rockefeller, jr., 'preserve the liberty of their employes' by persecuting such of them who dare to join unions, endeavor to place himself and his fellow workers in position to demand just treatment, through organization, are very long on what they are pleased to called benevolence,' as a substitute for just treatment.

"We have heard of their sick and accident funds, which prove an organization to be supported by the employes themselves, with a margin left for the employer to boast of, and employes who manage such fund; also, we find, that in order that they may receive the benefits of such sick and aid fund they have subscribed to it by compulsion demanded of them that they give the company a clean bill of responsibility for the cause of the disablement.

"Their free (?) hospitals are generally a graft on the envelope of the employes. Their cheap (?) rents are another source of revenue to which the unfortunate who work in their factories have been forced by the hiring of doctors are assured pay from the employes, and the usual commissions.

"And then, they have their annual excursions!

"It is while enjoying this munificence of the employers that they are expected to show to the outside world how happy they are in their lot, and how they sing in unison 'Let us keep our prayer unbroken and our bond unbent,' and 'nations,' while the wicked agitator for unionism stands aloof, and impotent."

STREET CAR MEN ORGANIZING.

Fort Wayne, Ind., Aug. 14.—Street car men in this city have reached a point in their organizing campaign where the Fort Wayne & Northern Indiana Traction company has notified its employes it will arbitrate any differences that may arise. The company warns its employes against "agitators," and assures them that all differences can be settled by conference. A. F. of L. Organizer Flynn, in an open letter to the car men, answers the company as follows:

"The Fort Wayne & Northern Indiana Traction company tried to force its armature winders to work overtime on single time pay, at 18 cents less than the wages paid to the day men to armature winders. When the armature winders asked for a conference they were given their pay envelopes. This shows how fair the traction company is to its employes."

A PROBLEM IN ARITHMETIC.

Racine, Wis., Aug. 14.—The Racine Daily Call presents this problem in simple arithmetic:

"Some time Eastland was certified to carry 2,000 passengers, with safety assured for all.

"Later it permitted this figure to be increased to 2,500.

"Then, many passengers on board, it is charged, made the boat tip over.

"Twelve hundred persons were drowned, according to conservative estimates.

"At 75 cents per passenger, the extra 500 added by the steamship company $375.

"Twelve hundred lives lost for $375, fixed the value of one human life at thirty-one and one-fourth cents."

NEEDLE WORKERS UNITING.

Newark, N. J., Aug. 14.—Women workers on white goods in this city are joining the local affiliated to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union because of low wages and poor working conditions. A system of fines in many shops has driven many workers to earn less than the minimum wage, consistently increased wages 5 per cent. It is stated that the company reduced hours of labor, but cut the wages in proportion that might be made in the near future.

"COMPANY" HOUSES INSPECTED.

Hazelton, Pa., Aug. 14.—The state health department is investigating "company" houses in the mining settlements of this county. A house to house canvass is being conducted. It is believed this movement is part of a campaign against disease pollution based on favor of a scientific disposal of sewage.

WAGES LOW IN NORTHWEST

Olympia, Wash., Aug. 14.—Vice Consul Kool of The Netherlands wrote state officials regarding "the conditions prevailing in the lumber industry" into the state of Washington." The query was turned over to State Labor Commissioner Olson, who, in his reply to the foreign representative, said, among other things, from that which is usual in these cases.

The commissioner wrote in part:

"For many years past there has been a surplus of labor in our manufacturing industries, and especially is this true of unskilled labor. This condition has naturally forced wages to a very low level, and the efforts made to prevent great groups of foreigners working on railroad construction and highway work, receiving therefor so little and even less than $1.60 per day and paying 90 cents to $1.00 per day for board which is served mostly to men being intensified because of the further fact that, but little attention is paid to the offers, and the workmen are therefore compelled to 'drift' the greater portion of the year in looking for work.

"The result is that unemployment, owing to the constant influx of European immigration, has resolved itself into a stupendous problem.

"Washington, however, is by no means inviting to the immigrant who, in the majority of cases, intends entering his condition by coming to the United States. In justice to the people of my state I must say that they will be influenced by plausible literature designed to attract them to this country, and that they will be unacquainted them with obstacles that are invariably encountered in the peculiarly unfavorable climates. I am constrained to offer discouragement to such foreign immigration, and can only add to our problem of unemployment.

A STIRRING APPEAL.

Melbourne, Australia, Aug. 14.—Under the caption "Be a Unionist, Only Be a Man," the Labor Call of this city says:

"If you don't want to be trodden on, join the union.

"Do you want to be well fed, well housed, well clothed and well read? Join the union! Do you want to help your mates along? Join the union! Do you want free press and the conscientious objector to be liable to imprisonment? Join the union! Do you want electrical energy to do your own peaceful land." declared President Willet to the Melbourne Trades Hall Conference, in convention in this city. "Statistics tell us that 60,000 lives are annually sacrificed to the plague of preventable diseases of the preventable class. The annual economic loss from this cause is £60,000,000, or about six times the amount of our fire loss."

JUDGING A LABOR DISPUTE.

San Francisco, Aug. 14.—Under the above caption the Bulletin of this city makes the following statement that will be remembered by those who sit in judgment on labor disputes:

"It seems to be obvious that workingmen whose hours and conditions of labor are what they should be, would be more highly treated by their employers with fairness and respect will not, in a country where free institutions exist, rush upon the revolvers of policemen or the bayonets of militia. A corporation which is hated by its employes cannot be guiltless."

LEASE SYSTEM OPPOSED.

Montgomery, Ala., Aug. 14.—The Trade-unionists, railroad brotherhoods, representatives and associations of business men have joined in an appeal to Alabama citizens to put an end to the convict lease system existing in this state. With this joint appeal is the report of a legislative committee of investigation which depicts the horrors of this system and the working of convicts in mines and in camps for commercial reasons.

VIOLATE CLERKS' RULES.

Zanesville, O., Aug. 14.—As a preliminary to drastic action, if necessary, the Retail Clerks' union announces that certain stores in this city are cases violating the early closing rule.

END STRIKES BY FORCE IS HINTED IN CANADA

Vancouver, B. C., Aug. 14.—The British Columbia Federationist, official newspaper of the Trades and Labor Council and this city, raises a warning cry against the plan of compulsory arbitration which, the public press asserts, is to be urged before the incoming Manitoba legislature, by W. H. Reeve, fair wage officer of that province.

The British Columbia Federationist says:

"The opinion of those who have had close experience of similar legislation in Australia does not tally with the rosy picture which Reeve has drawn of it. Under the Australian law, strikes are prohibited, conciliation must be enforced by law. Their acceptance by either party to the dispute is purely optional. There is only that element of compulsion in it, the act has met with very strenuous opposition at the annual conventions of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and from the unions separately.

"It is argued that it is compelling workmen by law to submit all disputes to an industrial court is an indefensible one, we feel certain there will be vigorous opposition. If it should pass, there is still the question of enforcing the penalties for striking in face of the act. This is not so easy to do where a small body of men are involved, but where a difference arises affecting not only one or two persons. That difficulty has already arisen in this province, and we have gone on strike in violation of the law as set forth in the act.

"Heavy penalties were taken against them by the government, doubtless because political sagacity suggested that in such a case discretion was the better part of valor. One case of this kind locally was the electrical workers in employ of the British Columbia Telephone company. They were well organized. They knew exactly what they wanted. And they got it in five days by going on strike."

"THEORETICAL" WAGES.

Palmer, Mass., Aug. 14.—"Theoretical" wages in the latest in this age of efficiency and invention of new terms. Superintendent Lauren of the Three Rivers Paper company explained the new system to the state board of conciliation while that body was in session here investigating the company and its striking employes. Lauren told the conciliators that when he took charge of the plant he found different wage schedules. These had now been supplanted by a "theoretical" wage system, which would permit the workers to earn—theoretically—from $11 or $12 to $18 a week.

The superintendent acknowledged conditions might arise whereby workers might not make "from $11 or $12 to $18 a week."

In other words, there is a difference between theoretical wages and the actual cash.

WHY SAFETY LAW IS OPPOSED.

Washington, Aug. 14.—"Will congress be a day late?" is the question in the safety of life at sea and the great lakes because of greater safety means increased expense to shipowners, the Washington Post, in an editorial entitled "Why Shipowners Do Not Like the Safety Law."

The Post continues:

"Under the La Follette law the Eastland would not have been permitted to carry more than two-thirds as many passengers as were on board when she capsized. Provision would have been made for lifeboats and liferafts for all on board instead of boats and rafts for 771 out of a total of 2,800 passengers.

"The La Follette law will go into effect November 1. If it is not in effect this month, the Eastland would still be afloat."

SHOW INCREASED EARNINGS.

Washington, August 14.—Railroads of this country continue to increase their earnings despite pleas that higher rates are necessary to give them proper returns.

In June last, 67 of the principal roads showed net revenues of $46,-781,000, according to an interstate commerce commission report. In June, 1914, this revenue was $357, giving the roads an increase of $49 a mile this year.

The operating revenues of the companies in June totaled $186,115,949 and the operating expenses $46,934,219, leaving net operating revenues of $35,-181,658

EMPLOYERS CHANGE FRONT

New York, Aug. 14.—The Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' Protective association has accepted the award of the board of conciliation appointed by Mayor Mitchel.

The employers reached this decision after the result of a strike force of the garment workers was found to be practically unanimous in favor of tieing up this industry if the manufacturers' association rejected an award that does not meet their demands.

Last May the employers abrogated their agreement with the union. A strike in which workers seemed imminent when the employers were induced to refer the matter to a board of conciliation. The board not only raised wages but upset the plans of the employers to disrupt the union by the following declaration in favor of a joint board to consider appeals of alleged discharges:

"No human being is wise enough to be able to trust his sole judgment in decisions that affect the welfare of others; he needs to be protected, and, if he is fair, he will welcome protection against the errors to which he is liable in common with his kind. He will also welcome protections of passion or selfishness. For this reason, a tribunal of some sort for the protection either of the parties to this covenant believe itself to be unjustly discharged."

This unqualified denial of an employer's "right to run his own business" and after an appeal to right to discharge workers because of union activity—was in direct contrast with the manufacturers' plan when they began devising ways to reject the award.

Their answer, equivalent to this attitude was a declaration that 60,000 unionists would strike if the award was not accepted. There will be no strike.

RELEASED ON BAIL.

New York, Aug. 14.—Secretary-Treasurer Sigman and seven other officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, were released on bail from the penitentiary months on various charges, have been released on bail. At the time of their arrest they were charged with the lurid accounts of the incident. Now Supreme Court Justice Ford, in admitting them to bail, said:

"The evidence against them, as shown by the minutes of the grand jury which held the defendants, is, to say the least, inconclusive as to all, and of questionable probative force as to most."

The workers charge that the arrests were part of the manufacturers' plan to destroy their union, and show that the employers abrogated an agreement that even though the peril to life seems slight, the worker is not required to submit to the operation when the risk to life is great. Dr. Allan Hamilton, himself with the trade unions will be considered as unsatisfactory to the company physician.

It is said that the other international unions interested in the garment trade will consider renewals. These internationals include: Pulp, sulphite and paper mill workers; the journeymen firemen, electrical workers, steam engineers, plumbers and gas fitters, carpenters, machinists and the American Federation of Labor, representing all the unions not affiliated with or in affiliation with an international union.

WORKING HOURS FOR WOMEN.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Aug. 14. — Representatives of the state commission on labor and industry were in this city last week and conducted hearings on the proposition to give women employes of hotels, restaurants and hospitals two half days of each week off instead of rather than one whole day each week. The proposal is the result of a bill introduced in behalf of two half days a week while the managers of the larger hotels in this city have fixed so that each woman employe might have the one whole day each week free from duty. This latter contention was presented by James H. Maurer, president of the Pennsylvania state federation of labor.

Representatives of hospitals spoke for the latter plan, declaring that one entire day was desired by those representative children's homes and similar institutions.

FAVOR SICKNESS INSURANCE.

Columbus, O., Aug. 14.—Sickness insurance for all industrial workers is favored by the state board of health in its monthly bulletin. Such insurance, to be under the supervision of the state, would be similar to the workmen's compensation insurance which the state now conducts for the benefit of victims of industrial accidents.

The success of state compensation in case of accidents in Ohio and other states," the bulletin says, is at least practical proof that the same kind of insurance by the state" could be and successfully developed.

"Sickness insurance should be for the same compensation scheme, which places practically all the burdens—in the first instance—on employers. The board favors sickness insurance, as it would reduce the loss near of numerous accidents and fatalities.

MINIMUM WAGE LAW DECLARED INVALID

Fort Smith, Ark., Aug. 14.—Judge Paul Little, of the circuit court, has declared the Arkansas minimum wage law for women unconstitutional.

J. B. Crowe, a laundry proprietor, was found guilty in a justice court of violating the act and on appeal to the circuit court, Judge Little upheld these four contentions of the accused:

That the bill signed by Governor Hays was not the same bill passed by the legislature; that the bill was illegal because it imposed a penalty upon an employee as well as an employer; that the bill is in conflict with section two, article two, of the state constitution; that the bill is in conflict with the fourteenth amendment of the federal constitution.

State officials announce they will appeal the case to the state supreme court.

The law was passed by the last legislature, and was intended "to regulate the hours of labor, safeguard the health and establish a minimum wage for females in the state of Arkansas."

A fifty-four hour week was prescribed for, and all females who had not reached the age of 21 years, the minimum wage should be paid not less than $1.25 a day. Under six months' experience a rate of not less than $1 a day was allowed.

The law gave a commission wide powers to reduce rates "if said commission should find after investigation that the lower minimum rate of wages is adequate to supply a woman or minor employed or engaged in any occupation, trade of industry the necessary cost of proper living."

NEED NOT TAKE RISK.

Trenton, N. J., Aug. 14. — Justice Kalisch of the state supreme court has ruled that a human being is not compelled to take a risk of death, however slight, in the course of the employment of his employer in order that a workman's favor may be minimized.

This decision was made in the case of a worker who was injured while in the employment of a railroad, a serious case of hernia developed and a law suit for damages the worker was only awarded $2,000 compensation by the lower court, which sustained the company in its claim that an operation would cure the worker in six months.

The case was appealed to the supreme court and the railroad attorneys again quoted medical reports to show that out of 23,000 operations for hernia only a few had proved fatal. Justice Kalisch dissented from the views of the lower court and rejected the claims of the company. The court held that even though the peril to life seems slight, the worker is not required to submit to the operation when the risk to life is great. Dr. Allan Hamilton, himself with the trade unions will be considered as unsatisfactory to the company physician.

It is said that the other international unions interested in the garment trade will consider renewals. These internationals include: Pulp, sulphite and paper mill workers; the journeymen firemen, electrical workers, steam engineers, plumbers and gas fitters, carpenters, machinists and the American Federation of Labor, representing all the unions not affiliated with or in affiliation with an international union.

RENEW AGREEMENT.

Albany, N. Y., Aug. 14.—The International Brotherhood of Paper Makers has renewed an agreement with the International Paper company that has been in force since 1907 to help take effect. The renewal extends until May 1, 1916. One section of the contract provides:

"It is mutually understood and understood that the policy and practice of trade unionism shall be fully carried out, which means that employes who enter or remain in the service of the company shall affiliate themselves with the trade unions will be considered as unsatisfactory to the company and discharged."

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WORKING HOURS FOR WOMEN.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Aug. 14. — Representatives of the state commission on labor and industry were in this city last week and conducted hearings on the proposition to give women employes of hotels, restaurants and hospitals two half days of each week off instead of rather than one whole day each week. The proposal is the result of a bill introduced in behalf of two half days a week while the managers of the larger hotels in this city have fixed so that each woman employe might have the one whole day each week free from duty. This latter contention was presented by James H. Maurer, president of the Pennsylvania state federation of labor.

Representatives of hospitals spoke for the latter plan, declaring that one entire day was desired by those representative children's homes and similar institutions.

FAVOR SICKNESS INSURANCE.

Columbus, O., Aug. 14.—Sickness insurance for all industrial workers is favored by the state board of health in its monthly bulletin. Such insurance, to be under the supervision of the state, would be similar to the workmen's compensation insurance which the state now conducts for the benefit of victims of industrial accidents.

The success of state compensation in case of accidents in Ohio and other states," the bulletin says, is at least practical proof that the same kind of insurance by the state" could be and successfully developed.

"Sickness insurance should be for the same compensation scheme, which places practically all the burdens—in the first instance—on employers. The board favors sickness insurance, as it would reduce the loss near of numerous accidents and fatalities.

FORD EMPLOYES BANK MUCH.

Detroit, Aug. 14.—The result of high wages is shown in a report by the Ford Automobile company that employes have bank deposits totaling $3,646,301, life insurance totaling $6,-292,760, and the value of homes being bought on contract, $2,567,903. It is claimed that the living standards of coemployes has been raised nearly to that of Americans.

RELEASED ON BAIL.

New York, Aug. 14.—Secretary-Treasurer Sigman and seven other officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, were released on bail from the penitentiary months on various charges, have been released on bail. At the time of their arrest they were charged with the lurid accounts of the incident. Now Supreme Court Justice Ford, in admitting them to bail, said:

"The evidence against them, as shown by the minutes of the grand jury which held the defendants, is, to say the least, inconclusive as to all, and of questionable probative force as to most."

The workers charge that the arrests were part of the manufacturers' plan to destroy their union, and show that the employers abrogated an agreement that even though the peril to life seems slight, the worker is not required to submit to the operation when the risk to life is great. Dr. Allan Hamilton, himself with the trade unions will be considered as unsatisfactory to the company physician.

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LONGSHOREMEN RAISE WAGES.

San Pedro, Cal., Aug. 14.—Members of the Longshoremen's union have secured a wage increase as the result of conferences with employers.